

American Community Survey: An Update



November 5, 2004

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The background of the slide features a composite image in a sepia or brownish-gold tone. On the left side, there is a close-up of hands, possibly holding a pen or writing on a surface. On the right side, there is a close-up of a person's face, looking downwards with a contemplative expression. The title 'American Community Survey Update' is overlaid on this image in a large, bold, yellow font with a black outline.

American Community Survey Update

- ACS Background
- Implementation
- Race and Hispanic Origin
- Funding Issues
- Core Based Statistical Areas

The background of the slide is a composite image. The left side shows a close-up of hands, possibly holding a pen or writing on a surface. The right side shows a close-up of a person's face, looking down with a thoughtful expression. The overall color scheme is warm and sepia-toned.

ACS Background

- New annual survey developed by the Census
- Created in response to the need for accurate, timely and comparable information
- Will provide socioeconomic and housing information
 - Will replace the long form on the decennial census
 - Offers greater flexibility than the long form



Purpose of ACS

- Will give current information for policy makers
- Will give current information for allocation of funds
- Will give current information for program evaluation



ACS Background

- Carried out in the same manner as the decennial census
 - Addresses selected at random
 - Can only be selected once every five years
 - Sent to approximately 2.5% of households
 - Survey is conducted by mail, phone and personal visit
 - Mandatory participation



ACS Implementation

- Testing has been done since 1996
- Has proven to be operationally feasible for nationwide implementation
- Full implementation has been tentatively set for November 2004

The background of the slide is a composite image. The left side shows a close-up of hands clasped together, with a dark, curved object (possibly a pipe or a piece of wood) resting on them. The right side shows a close-up of a person's face, looking down with a contemplative expression.


ACS Implementation

- Release of annual estimates will occur in 2006
 - And for every year after for geographic areas with a population of 65,000+
- Three year accumulations available in 2008
 - 20,000 - 64,999
- Five year accumulations available in 2010
 - Less than 20,000



Issues with Implementation

- Group Quarters
- Race and Hispanic Origin
- Funding



Group Quarters

- Group Quarters start delayed until 2006
 - Funding issues
- Will include all group quarters
 - Except street homeless, ships at sea, domestic violence & natural disaster shelters



Race and Hispanic Origin

- Census Bureau is continually striving to define and count people accurately
- “Hispanic” is not considered to be one of the Census’ five race categories
 - White, Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander.
 - Is such a large grouping it needs to be counted

2003 ACS Questionnaire

NOTE: Please answer BOTH Questions 5 and 6.

5 Is this person Spanish/Hispanic/Latino?

Mark (X) the "No" box if not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino.

- ☐ **NO**, not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino
- ☐ Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano
- ☐ Yes, Puerto Rican
- ☐ Yes, Cuban
- ☐ Yes, other Spanish/Hispanic/Latino — Print group. **P**

6 What is this person's race? Mark (X) one or more races to indicate what this person considers himself/herself to be.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> White | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian Indian | <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American | <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese | <input type="checkbox"/> Guamanian or Chamorro |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native — Print name of enrolled or principal tribe. P | <input type="checkbox"/> Filipino | <input type="checkbox"/> Samoan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Japanese | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Pacific Islander — Print race below. P ↗ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Korean | <input type="checkbox"/> Some other race — Print race below. P ↗ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnamese | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Asian — Print race. → | <input type="checkbox"/> |

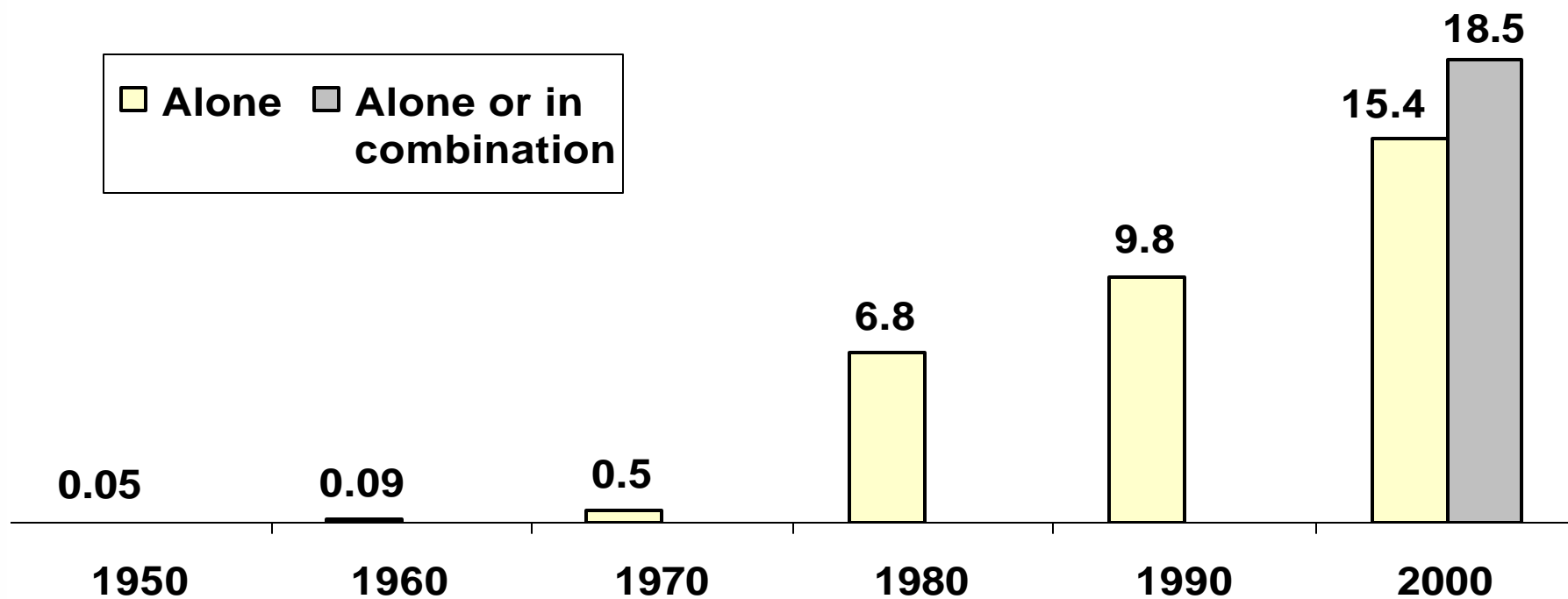


Race and Hispanic Origin

- Many Hispanics select “some other race”
 - Is used almost exclusively by Hispanics
 - “Some other race” is now the fastest growing racial category
- Hispanics described themselves in the 2000 Census:
 - 48% White
 - 42% Some other race
 - 2% Black
 - 6% Two or more of the racial categories

Race and Hispanic Origin

"Some other race" Responses: 1950 to 2000 (In Millions)





Race and Hispanic Origin

- The Census is considering eliminating this option
 - First time since 1940
 - Many federal agencies rely on racial group data to make statistical calculations about race
 - Census must impute “some other race” answers into one of the 5 racial categories



Race and Hispanic Origin

- Critics say this ignores evolving racial views
 - Nearly 40 million Hispanics live in the U.S.
 - Have racial identities that “transcend the traditional notion of black and white”
- Others feel removing the option would:
 - Increase the number of “White” responses
 - Increase the number of Hispanics who would refuse to respond to the race question

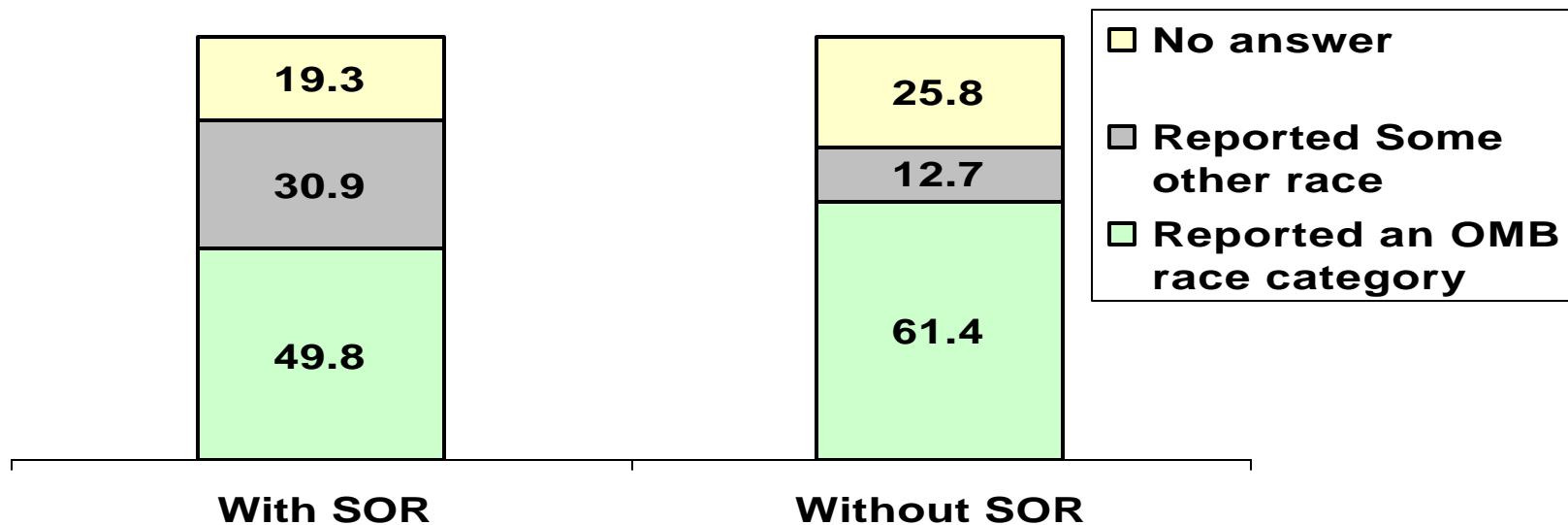


Race and Hispanic Origin

- Consequences
 - Could result in inaccurate tallies of racial groups and impact redistricting
 - Could lead to inaccuracies in data files used to monitor voting rights and civil rights enforcement
 - Would minimize the need for imputation

Race and Hispanic Origin

Race Reporting by Hispanics 2003 National Census Test (Percentage)





Race and Hispanic Origin

- Currently:
 - Reviewing the 2003 National Census Test
 - Census is performing cognitive testing for 2005
 - Shortened questions on race and Hispanic origin
 - Modified question on ancestry to allow for more specific information



Funding Issues

- Census Bureau director will terminate the ACS if there is not sufficient funding for 2005
 - The Census requested \$165 million but needs \$142 million
 - The House has recommended \$146 million
 - The Senate has recommended \$64 million



Funding Issues

- Weiner Amendment
 - Would have transferred a major portion of ACS funding to the COPS program
- CSPAN coverage of Weiner Amendment



Funding Issues

- Currently:
 - A budget has not yet been passed
 - An issue of understanding the importance of the ACS
 - Census cannot lobby and cannot suggest the State Data Centers lobby



Core Based Statistical Areas

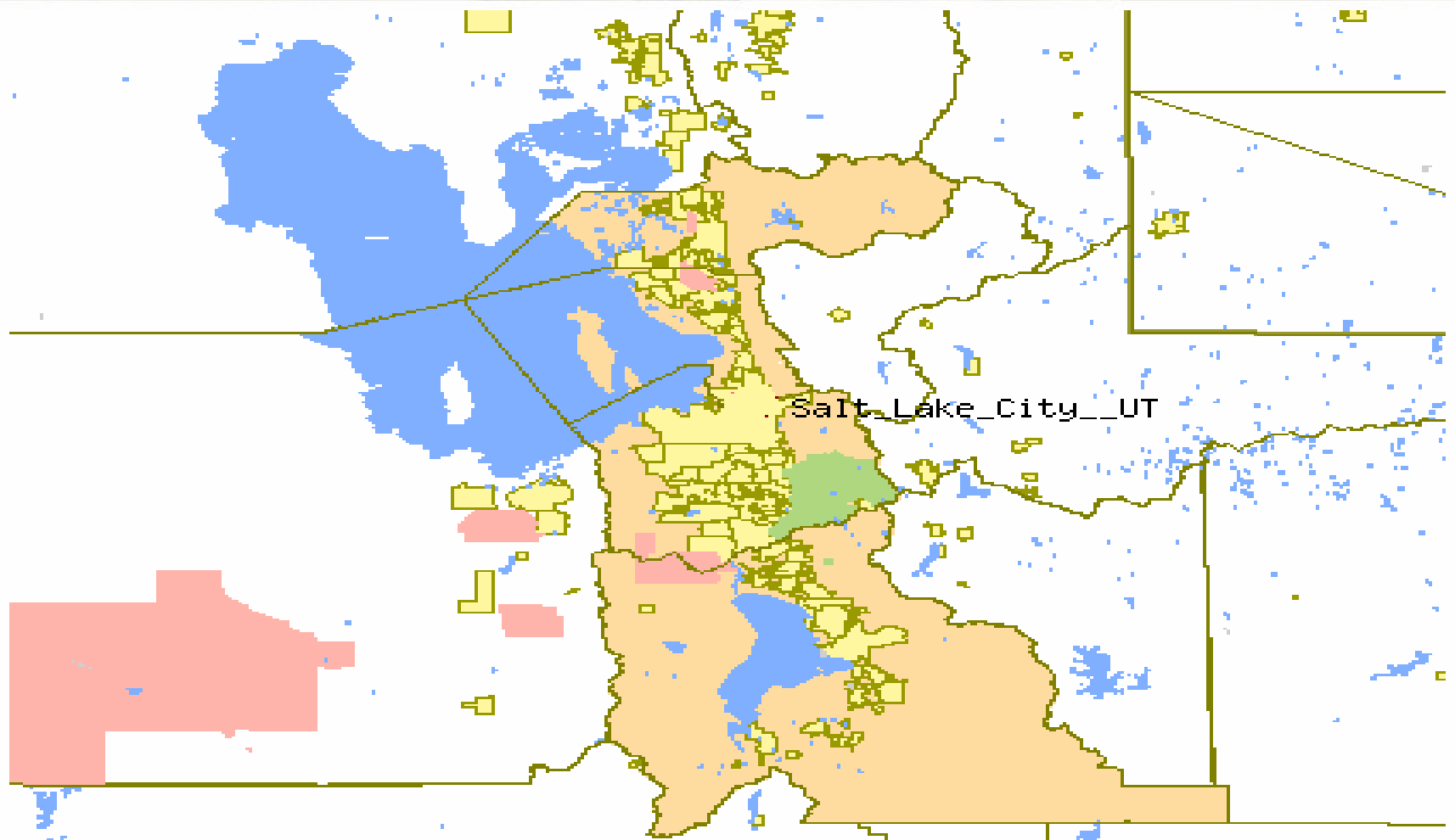
- The Office of Management and Budget defines core based statistical areas (CBSAs) for statistical purposes
- A CBSA is an area containing a large population nucleus and adjacent communities with a high degree of integration



Core Based Statistical Areas

- Two types of CBSAs
 - Metropolitan Statistical Area: Associated with one urbanized area with a population of 50,000+
 - Micropolitan Statistical Area: Associated with one urbanized area with a population of 10,000+

Core Based Statistical Areas





Core Based Statistical Areas

- Statistical Area definitions were updated this year
- A new Micropolitan Statistical Area was formed in Utah
 - Heber, UT
 - Will be added to the Salt Lake City-Ogden-Clearfield, UT Combined Statistical Area



ACS Update

- Questions???



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